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Eradication of poverty and other development issues: implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Denise **McQuade** (Ireland)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 57 (see A/64/424, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 35th and 40th meetings, on 17 November and 4 December 2009. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/64/SR.35 and 40).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/64/L.38 and A/C.2/64/L.56

2. At the 35th meeting, on 17 November, the representative of the Sudan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)" (A/C.2/64/L.38), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolutions 47/196 of 22 December 1992, 48/183 of 21 December 1993, 50/107 of 20 December 1995, 56/207 of 21 December 2001, 57/265 and 57/266 of 20 December 2002, 58/222 of 23 December 2003, 59/247 of 22 December 2004, 60/209 of 22 December 2005, 61/213 of 20 December 2006, 62/205 of 19 December 2007 and 63/230 of 19 December 2008,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in four parts, under the symbol A/64/424 and Add.1-3.

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"*Recalling also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit, as well as the international commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

"*Recalling further* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Recalling* its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council,

"*Welcoming* the poverty-related discussions in the annual ministerial reviews held by the Economic and Social Council, which play an important supporting role in the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017),

"*Noting with appreciation* the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council, on 'Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development',

"*Recalling* its resolution 63/303 of 9 July 2009 on the outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,

"*Recalling also* Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/5 of 24 July 2009 on recovering from the crisis: a Global Jobs Pact,

"*Recalling further* the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,

"*Recalling* the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

"*Remaining concerned* that volatile food prices and the global multidimensional crises pose a serious challenge to the fight against poverty and hunger, as well as to the efforts of developing countries to attain food security and achieve the objective of reducing by half the number of undernourished people by no later than 2015 as well as other internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and reiterating that the global food crisis has multiple and complex causes and that its consequences require a comprehensive and coordinated response in the short, medium and long term by national Governments and the international community,

"*Expressing concern* that, after the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) and six years away from the target date of the 2015 Millennium Development Goals, while there has been progress in reducing poverty in some regions, this progress has been uneven and the number of people living in poverty in some countries continues to increase,

with women and children constituting the majority of the most affected groups, especially in the least developed countries and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa,

"*Recognizing* that rates of economic growth vary between countries and that these differences must be addressed by, among other actions, promoting pro-poor growth and social protection,

"*Concerned* at the global nature of poverty and inequality, and underlining that the eradication of poverty and hunger is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind,

"*Reaffirming* that eradicating poverty is one of the greatest global challenges facing the world today, particularly in Africa and in least developed countries, and underlining the importance of accelerating sustainable broad-based and inclusive economic growth, including full, productive employment-generation and decent work,

"*Expressing deep concern* at the multiple interrelated and mutually exacerbating current global crises, in particular the world financial and economic crisis, the volatile energy prices, the food crisis and the challenges posed by climate change, which could further undermine the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Expressing deep concern also* at the impact of the current financial and economic crisis on the ability of developing countries to gain access to the financing necessary for the development objectives, and underlining the fact that developing countries and countries with economies in transition risk suffering very serious setbacks to their development objectives, in particular the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Expressing further concern* that the effects of the world economic and financial crisis are extremely disturbing and likely to worsen, and that hundreds of millions of people all over the world are losing their jobs, their income, their savings, their homes and their ability to survive, and that, in addition, more than 50 million more people have already been driven into extreme poverty,

"*Recognizing* that mobilizing financial resources for development at the national and international levels and the effective use of those resources are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Recognizing also* the contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation to the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and to pursue sustainable development,

"*Acknowledging* that good governance at national and international levels and sustained and inclusive economic growth, supported by full employment and decent work, rising productivity, and a favourable environment, including public and private investment and entrepreneurship, are necessary to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the

Millennium Development Goals, and realize a rise in living standards, and that corporate social responsibility initiatives play an important role in maximizing the impact of public and private investment,

"*Affirming* its strong support for fair globalization and the need to translate growth into eradication of poverty and commitment to strategies and policies that aim to promote full, freely chosen and productive employment and decent work for all and that these should constitute a fundamental component of relevant national and international policies as well as national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, and reaffirming that employment creation and decent work should be incorporated into macroeconomic policies, taking fully into account the impact and social dimension of globalization, the benefits and costs of which are often unevenly shared and distributed,

"*Underlining* the priority and urgency given by the Heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

"1. *Reaffirms* that the objective of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) is to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the follow-up to the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, related to the eradication of poverty and to coordinate international support to that end;

"2. *Also reaffirms* that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and recognizes that increased effective national efforts should be complemented by concrete, effective and supportive international programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty;

"3. *Emphasizes* the need to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, while stressing the importance of addressing the causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels;

"4. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development, critical for the eradication of poverty;

"5. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring, at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, coherent, comprehensive and integrated activities for the eradication of poverty in accordance with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

"6. *Reaffirms* the commitment to promote opportunities for full, freely chosen and productive employment, including for the most disadvantaged, as well as decent work for all, in order to deliver social justice combined with economic efficiency, with full respect for fundamental principles and rights at work under conditions of equity, equality, security and dignity, and further reaffirms that macroeconomic policies should, inter alia, support employment creation, taking fully into account the social impact and dimension of globalization;

"7. *Recognizes* that full and productive employment and decent work for all, which encompass social protection, fundamental principles and rights at work and social dialogue, are key elements of sustainable development for all countries and are therefore a priority objective of international cooperation;

"8. *Emphasizes* that education and training are among the critical factors in empowering those living in poverty, while recognizing the complexity of the challenge of poverty eradication;

"9. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to give priority to the eradication of poverty and on donor countries in a position to do so to support the effective national efforts of developing countries in this regard, through adequate predictable financial resources on either a bilateral or a multilateral basis;

"10. *Calls for* the fulfilment of all official development assistance-related commitments, including the commitments made by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2015 and to reach the target of at least 0.5 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2010, as well as to achieve the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to least developed countries; and urges those developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts in this regard in accordance with their commitments;

"11. *Welcomes* the initiatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, under the auspices of two Education for All processes, e.g., the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003-2012) and the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014), to promote education as a major tool of decision-making on major international policy issues with regard to sustainable development;

"12. *Recognizes* that sustained and inclusive economic growth is essential for eradicating poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, and stresses that national efforts in this regard should be complemented by an enabling international environment;

"13. *Calls upon* Member States to take ambitious actions in the interest of all nations in order to achieve a more inclusive, equitable, balanced, stable and development-oriented sustainable socio-economic model to overcome poverty and inequality;

"14. *Takes note* of the decision of the Secretary-General to appoint the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs as the coordinator

for the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017);

"15. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to carry out coherent, comprehensive and integrated activities to ensure the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty in consultations with Member States and other relevant stakeholders;

"16. *Takes note* of the inter-agency, system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication involving 21 agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, and requests the Secretary-General to provide further details of this plan of action for consideration by Member States;

"17. *Reaffirms* the need to give the highest priority to its consideration of the item on poverty eradication in its agenda, and in that regard, as a contribution to the Second United Nations Decade, decides to convene, during its sixty-eighth session, a meeting of the General Assembly at the highest appropriate political level centred on the review process devoted to the theme for the issue of poverty eradication, and stresses that the meeting and the preparatory activities should be carried out within the budget level proposed by the Secretary-General for the biennium 2012-2013 and should be organized in the most effective and efficient manner;

"18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled 'Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)', and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report that details the current response, plans and actions of the United Nations system related to the theme of the Second Decade."

3. At its 40th meeting, on 4 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)" (A/C.2/64/L.56), submitted by the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Dragan Mićić (Serbia), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.38.

4. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Chairperson, the Committee agreed to waive rule 120 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and proceeded to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.56.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

6. Also at its 40th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.56 (see para. 9).

7. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Bangladesh (see A/C.2/64/SR.40).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.56, draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.38 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/196 of 22 December 1992, 48/183 of 21 December 1993, 50/107 of 20 December 1995, 56/207 of 21 December 2001, 57/265 and 57/266 of 20 December 2002, 58/222 of 23 December 2003, 59/247 of 22 December 2004, 60/209 of 22 December 2005, 61/213 of 20 December 2006, 62/205 of 19 December 2007 and 63/230 of 19 December 2008,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit,[1] as well as the international commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2]

Recalling its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

Recalling also its resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the poverty-related discussions in the annual ministerial reviews held by the Economic and Social Council, which play an important supporting role in the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017),

Noting with appreciation the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council on creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development,[3] and also Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/5 of 24 July 2009 on recovering from the crisis: a Global Jobs Pact,

Recalling its resolution 63/303 of 9 July 2009 on the outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] See resolution 60/1.

[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/61/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 50.

Recalling also the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[4]

Recalling further the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development[5] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,[6]

Underlining the fact that, in the face of the current multiple, interrelated global crises and challenges, such as the financial and economic crisis, the food crisis, volatile energy and commodity prices and climate change, cooperation and increased commitment by all relevant partners, including the public sector, the private sector and civil society, are needed more than ever, and recognizing in this context the urgent need to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Expressing concern that, after the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) and six years from the 2015 target date of the Millennium Development Goals, while there has been progress in reducing poverty in some regions, this progress has been uneven and the number of people living in poverty in some countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority of the most affected groups, especially in the least developed countries and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa,

Recognizing that rates of economic growth vary among countries and that these differences must be addressed by, among other actions, promoting pro-poor growth and social protection,

Concerned at the global nature of poverty and inequality, and underlining that the eradication of poverty and hunger is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind,

Reaffirming that eradicating poverty is one of the greatest global challenges facing the world today, particularly in Africa and in least developed countries, and underlining the importance of accelerating sustainable broad-based and inclusive economic growth, including full, productive employment-generation and decent work,

Recognizing that mobilizing financial resources for development at the national and international levels and the effective use of those resources are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing also the contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation to the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and to pursue sustainable development,

Acknowledging that good governance at the national and international levels and sustained and inclusive economic growth, supported by full employment and decent work, rising productivity and a favourable environment, including public and

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[4] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[5] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[6] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

private investment and entrepreneurship, are necessary to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and realize a rise in living standards, and that corporate social responsibility initiatives play an important role in maximizing the impact of public and private investment,

Underlining the priority and urgency given by the Heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

1. *Reaffirms* that the objective of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) is to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the follow-up to the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, related to the eradication of poverty and to coordinate international support to that end;

2. *Also reaffirms* that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and recognizes that increased effective national efforts should be complemented by concrete, effective and supportive international programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty;

3. *Emphasizes* the need to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, while stressing the importance of addressing the causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels;

4. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development, which is critical for the eradication of poverty;

5. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring, at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, coherent, comprehensive and integrated activities for the eradication of poverty in accordance with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

6. *Reaffirms* the commitment to promote opportunities for full, freely chosen and productive employment, including for the disadvantaged, as well as decent work for all, with full respect for fundamental principles and rights at work under conditions of equity, equality, security and dignity, and also reaffirms that macroeconomic policies should, inter alia, support employment creation, taking fully into account the social and environmental impact and dimensions of globalization, and that these concepts are key elements of sustainable development for all countries and are therefore a priority objective of international cooperation;

7. *Emphasizes* that education and training are among the critical factors in empowering those living in poverty, while recognizing the complexity of the challenge of poverty eradication;

8. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to give priority to the eradication of poverty and upon donor countries in a position to do so to support the

effective national efforts of developing countries in this regard, through adequate predictable financial resources on either a bilateral or a multilateral basis;

9. *Reaffirms* the need to fulfil all official development assistance commitments, including the commitments made by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015, and to reach the level of at least 0.5 per cent of gross national product for development assistance by 2010, as well as a target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to least developed countries;

10. *Welcomes* the increased efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and to increase its impact on development, including through the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action,[7] which make important contributions to the efforts of those countries which have committed to them, and through the adoption of the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization and management of results and through the further alignment of assistance with countries' strategies, the building of institutional capacities, the reduction of transaction costs, the elimination of bureaucratic procedures, the achievement of progress on untying aid, the enhancement of the absorptive capacity and financial management of recipient countries and the strengthening of the focus on development results, and bears in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee effective assistance and that the specific situation of each country needs to be fully considered;

11. *Recognizes* that sustained and inclusive economic growth is essential for eradicating poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, and stresses that national efforts in this regard should be complemented by an enabling international environment;

12. *Calls upon* Member States to continue their ambitious efforts to strive for more inclusive, equitable, balanced, stable and development-oriented sustainable socio-economic approaches to overcoming poverty and inequality;

13. *Takes note* of the decision of the Secretary-General to appoint the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs as the coordinator for the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017);

14. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to consider activities to implement the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders;

15. *Takes note* of the inter-agency system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication involving more than twenty-one agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, and requests the Secretary-General to provide further details of this plan of action to the Member States;

16. *Reaffirms* the need to give the highest priority to its consideration of the item on poverty eradication in its agenda, and in that regard recalls its decision, in

[7] A/63/539, annex.

resolution 63/230, as a contribution to the Second United Nations Decade, to convene, during its sixty-eighth session, a meeting of the General Assembly at the highest appropriate political level centred on the review process devoted to the theme for the issue of poverty eradication, and stresses that the meeting and the preparatory activities should be carried out within the budget level proposed by the Secretary-General for the biennium 2012-2013 and should be organized in the most effective and efficient manner;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)", and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report that details the current response of the United Nations system related to the theme of the Second Decade.